



Belford Engine Fire Company Volunteer Edward Sefcik Celebrates 50 Years of Service to MTFD



Mayor Tony Perry and Deputy Mayor and Ex-Fire Chief Rick Hibell were proud to join MTFD chiefs and leaders from Belford Engine Fire Company to celebrate Key to the Township recipient Edward Sefcik! (Photo courtesy of MTFD First Assistant Chief Kevin Morrissey)

On Saturday, Belford Engine Fire Company recognized volunteer Edward Sefcik for 50 years of service to the company and Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD). Mayor Tony Perry and Deputy Mayor and Ex-Fire Chief Rick Hibell were honored to present Edward with a Key to the Township on behalf of the Township Committee, as well as personally thank him for his decades of volunteerism.

The MTFD is the largest all-volunteer fire department in the world and brave

individuals like Edward help make up the fabric of this thriving organization.
Congratulations and thank you for your service, Edward!

**MIDDLETOWN
TOWNSHIP**



**PRESS
RELEASE**

Middletown Township Announces Wellness Wheels Program to Provide Transportation for Residents to Healthcare Appointments & Services

The Township announced Middletown Wellness Wheels, a unique program that will be funded through a portion of the Opioid Settlement Funds to provide free local transportation to healthcare services for residents who meet the criteria.

Click [HERE](#) to read our press release for more information.

Middletown Celebrates Valentine's Day



Photos courtesy of Middletown Parks & Recreation

Love is in the air! On Thursday, the Middletown Senior Center had a Valentine's Day party where members were able to enjoy a buffet brunch, music entertainment, and dancing. On that same day, Middletown Preschool students exchanged valentines, ate some treats, had a dance party, and made a craft.

Happy Valentine's Day!



MTPL to be Partially Closed from Monday, 2/17 through Friday, 2/21


RENOVATION UPDATE:
PARTIAL BUILDING CLOSURE

MTPL will be partially closed to the public from **February 17 - 21** as we work on some final phases of the Reference Area renovation.

The Library will maintain regular hours during the partial building closure. Staff will be available to fill holds and locker pick-ups, and the Community Room, lobby area, and the Children's Room will remain open for library programs and tax appointments while the rest of the building is temporarily closed to the public.

THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT [MTPL.ORG](http://mtpl.org) FOR FURTHER UPDATES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE & UNDERSTANDING!

MIDDLETOWN TWP.
PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.mtpl.org



Visit mtpl.org/mtpl-renovation for more information about the renovation and any updates regarding the closure.

Township Hosts Technical Information Session for Owners of Property Within Campbell's Junction Redevelopment Study Area



Township Administrator Tony Mercantante, Planning Director Amy Citrano, and Colliers Engineering & Design Project Manager Nicholas Dickerson (the Township's consultant for the study) addressed the crowded room.

Middletown Township is in the process of completing a Redevelopment Investigation Study for properties in the area known as Campbell's Junction. The Study Area is located along Leonardville Road from Church Street to East Road in Belford and is comprised of approximately 73 properties and about 34 acres.

The Township held a technical information session for owners of property within the Campbell's Junction Redevelopment Study Area on Monday at 7:00 PM in the Training Room at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). The purpose of this information session was to explain the process of a Redevelopment Investigation as per the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.

Visit middletownnj.org/campbellsjunction for more information about the Redevelopment Investigation Study and to review the recording and materials from the meeting.

NJ Division of Taxation Hosts "Understanding Tax Relief Programs" Presentation at Middletown Senior Center



On Wednesday, Middletown Township and the New Jersey Division of Taxation co-hosted a free event for senior residents to provide updated information about the following state programs: ANCHOR, Senior Freeze, and Stay NJ (a new property tax credit program). Christina Quinones, the New Jersey Division of Taxation Stakeholder Liaison, spoke to a jam-packed room at the Middletown Senior Center.

Stay on the lookout for future presentations!



Township Committee to Host Meeting on Tuesday, 2/18 at 7 PM

The Middletown Township Committee Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th at 7:00 PM in the courtroom at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will also be made available to watch or listen to by visiting middletownnj.portal.civicclerk.com. Once you visit the link, please scroll to the information for the Tuesday, February 18th meeting. Once the meeting begins, the event will say "LIVE" and a camera icon will appear. You can click on the camera icon to stream the meeting. After the meeting ends, a recording of it will be

available.

Prior to the Township Committee Meeting, the event link will be published on the Township's [Facebook page](#). The recording of the meeting will be aired on the Township's TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) and [YouTube channel](#).

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to access the meeting agenda.



NJAW Plans for Routine Maintenance at Swimming River & Jumping Brook Water Treatment Plants Beginning Week of Monday, 2/17

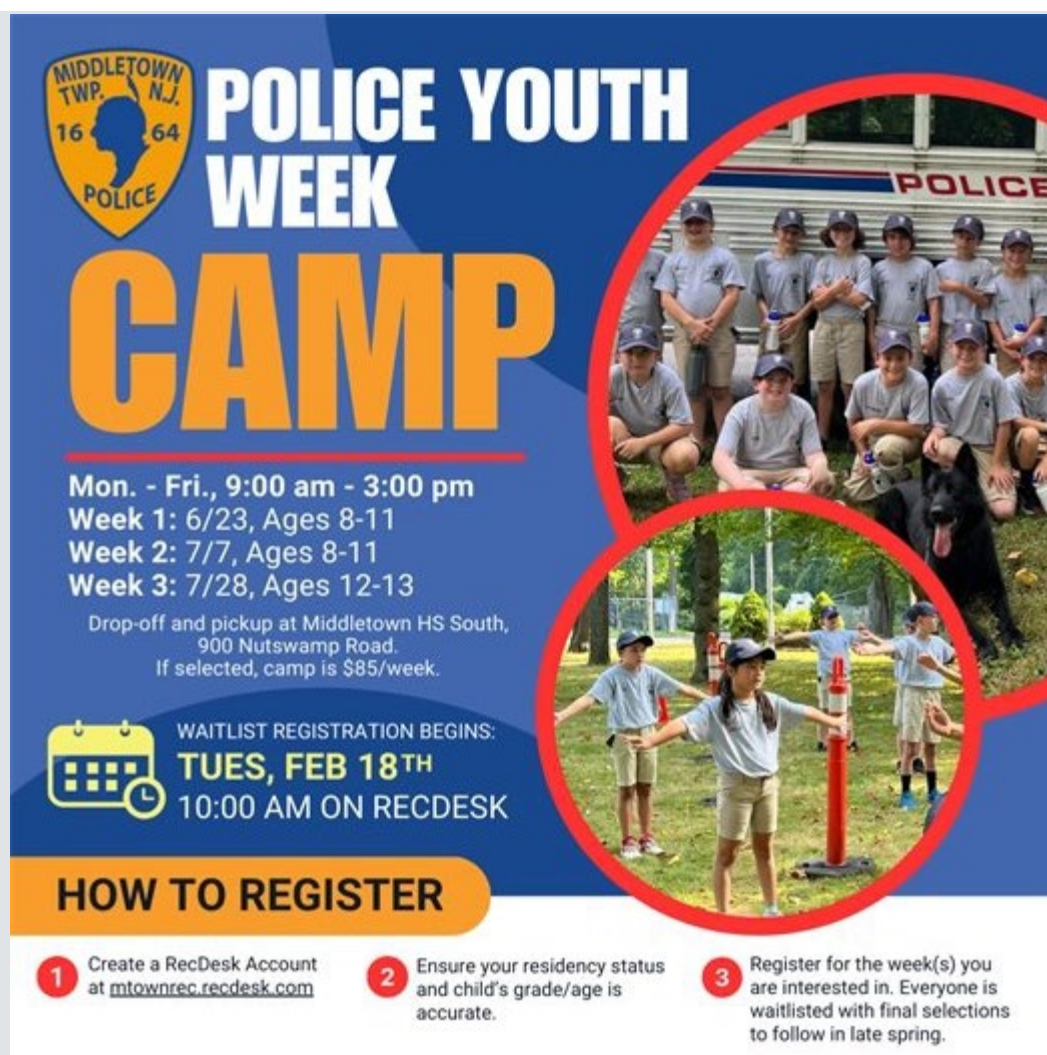
As part of an annual routine maintenance program, New Jersey American Water (NJAW) will temporarily change the water treatment process at its Swimming River Water Treatment Plant in Colts Neck and its Jumping Brook Water Treatment Plant in Neptune. The maintenance will take place the week of Monday, February 17th through mid-April, and consists of temporarily shifting from using chloramine to free chlorine.

This routine annual change in treatment helps ensure the continued safety and reliability of water quality throughout the distribution system. During this period, some customers may notice a slight taste and smell of chlorine in their water. This is normal and will only be temporary until the system maintenance is complete. If customers experience this, the company suggests placing water in an uncovered pitcher in the refrigerator overnight to allow the chlorine to dissipate.

Throughout the maintenance period, NJAW will continue to monitor water quality in the system to provide water to customers that meets or surpasses federal and state drinking water standards.

Click [HERE](#) to read NJAW's full press release.

**Registration for Police Youth Week Camp Opens
Tuesday, 2/18 at 10 AM**




The poster for Police Youth Week Camp features a blue background with a yellow and black Middletown Twp. N.J. Police logo in the top left. The logo includes the text 'MIDDLETOWN TWP. N.J.' and '16 64 POLICE'. To the right of the logo, the words 'POLICE YOUTH WEEK' are written in large, bold, white letters, and 'CAMP' is written in large, bold, orange letters below them. A red circular graphic on the right side contains two photographs: the top one shows a group of campers in uniform posing with a police dog, and the bottom one shows campers participating in an obstacle course. Text on the left provides details about the camp schedule, registration, and fees. At the bottom, a yellow banner reads 'HOW TO REGISTER', followed by three numbered steps.

MIDDLETOWN TWP. N.J. POLICE

POLICE YOUTH WEEK CAMP

Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Week 1: 6/23, Ages 8-11
Week 2: 7/7, Ages 8-11
Week 3: 7/28, Ages 12-13

Drop-off and pickup at Middletown HS South,
900 Nutswamp Road.
If selected, camp is \$85/week.

 WAITLIST REGISTRATION BEGINS:
TUES, FEB 18TH
10:00 AM ON RECDESK

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1** Create a RecDesk Account at mtownrec.recdesk.com
- 2** Ensure your residency status and child's grade/age is accurate.
- 3** Register for the week(s) you are interested in. Everyone is waitlisted with final selections to follow in late spring.

Registration for the Middletown Township Police Department's (MTPD) Police Youth Week Camp opens on Tuesday, February 18th at 10 AM! Registration will take place via Middletown Parks & Recreation's new online system, [RecDesk](https://mtownrec.recdesk.com).

Visit middletownnj.org/policeyouthweek for more information.

Registration for Middletown Parks & Recreation's 2025 Summer Camps Opens Monday, 3/3 at 10 AM



Registration for Middletown Parks & Recreation's 2025 summer camps opens for residents on Monday, March 3rd at 10 AM on RecDesk. Registration opens for non-residents on Monday, March 10th at 10 AM.

Create an account on RecDesk in advance to ensure your residency status and child's grade are accurate. If the information is not accurate, please reach out to recreation@middletownnj.org with the necessary updates.

Visit mtownrec.recdesk.com to create a RecDesk account. Additional information about camps will be announced on middletownnj.org/camp soon.

Register for Middletown's Emergency Alerts & Updates

REGISTER FOR ALERTS: BE IN THE KNOW WITH

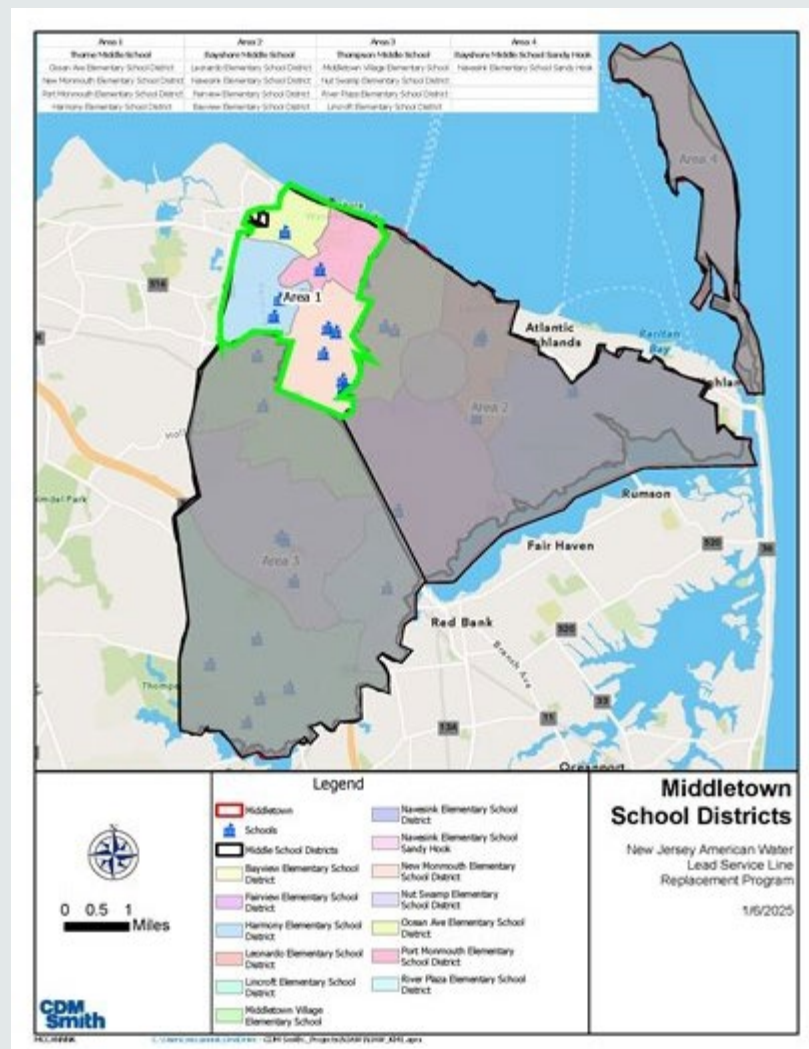
Three ways to get emergency notifications, such as severe weather updates, from Middletown Township:

- Text your zip code to 888-777
- Visit www.middletownnj.org/nixle to register for/customize notifications
- Download the Everbridge Nixle mobile app on Apple Store or Google Play to receive/manage notifications and limit text messages



Less urgent messages will be delivered to your email address on file. If it isn't on file, text your email address to 888-777 or download the mobile app.

NJAW Lead Service Line Replacement Program Door-to-Door Canvassing Continues



[Click on the canvassing map to view it in a larger PDF format.](#)

CDM Smith, on behalf of New Jersey American Water (NJAW), started a door-to-door canvassing effort related to the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) in Middletown on Monday, February 3rd. The canvassing and internal inspections are currently taking place in Area 1 on the map above. The entire canvassing is expected to take place over the next few months.

All CDM Smith inspectors will wear co-branded (NJAW and CDM Smith) high visibility logo vests and will have NJAW-issued Contractor ID badges. Inspectors will introduce themselves and the program to property owners and will then ask to enter the home to inspect the water service where it enters into the home (typically in a basement or crawl space).

The inspector will take exterior photos of the property and interior photographs of the service material and record the pipe material identified. Inspections generally take 15 minutes or less. At no time will residents be asked for money. Any customer that prefers to not have an internal inspection completed will be directed to alternatives to the inspections including self-reporting.

The Middletown Township Police Department is aware of the canvassing. If you have any questions about LSLRP, please email njawlead@cdmsmith.com and LeadFreeNJ@amwater.com.

**Participate in North Middletown-Port Monmouth
Neighborhood Plan Meeting on Thursday, 2/27 at 6 PM**

HEY, NORTH MIDDLETOWN/ PORT MONMOUTH SPREAD THE WORD!



North Middletown - Port Monmouth
NRTC Planning Area

Share your ideas on how to improve our neighborhood.

YOUR PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN IMPACTFUL! LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.

MEETING DATES

- February 27th – Thu
- March 27th – Thu
- April 23rd – Wed

Join us @ 6:00pm
Ocean Avenue School
235 Ocean Ave
Middletown Township, NJ 07748

Questions? Email us!
MiddletownNRTC@housingall.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.MiddletownPlan.org

Middletown Township, Ideal Beach Community Association, Bayshore Family Success Center, Affordable Housing Alliance, and Habitat for Humanity are creating a community-driven neighborhood plan for the North Middletown-Port Monmouth area! This neighborhood planning process will bring together residents, business owners, public officials, local organizations, and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive set of proposed strategies and activities to improve the community.

Once completed, this neighborhood plan will unlock special state funding to implement these proposed strategies through the New Jersey Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) Program.

We encourage residents who live in the planning area to complete [this Google survey](#). Visit www.middletownplan.org for more information about the plan.

<https://middletownnj.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/252875>[2/18/2025 10:02:27 AM]

THINKING ABOUT BUILDING AN IN-GROUND POOL IN TIME FOR THE SUMMER? BEST TO START THE PERMIT PROCESS NOW!



Stop by the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Office at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway) to meet with the Zoning Officer for a Development Permit Application. You will need a property survey that shows the proposed location of your pool and any other associated improvements such as a patio or cabana.

The initial zoning review takes about 7-10 days. Depending on the proposed improvements, a grading plan review or variance may be required. This process could take much longer, up to 3-6 months.

QUESTIONS? CALL ZONING AT 732-615-2278.

It may be winter, but summer will be here before you know it! If you're thinking about building an in-ground pool in time for this summer, the best time to start the permit process is NOW!

Stop by the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Office at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway) to meet with the Zoning Officer for a Development Permit Application. You will need a property survey that shows the proposed location of your pool and any other associated improvements such as a patio or cabana.

The initial zoning review takes about 7-10 days. Depending on the proposed improvements, a grading plan review or variance may be required. This process could take much longer, up to 3-6 months.

Please call Zoning at 732-615-2278 if you have any questions.

Connect with the Township to Help Correct Concerns



Middletown Township is now utilizing the “See-Click-Fix” platform so residents can easily contact the Township to report any concerns. The Township is branding this reporting tool as *Connect & Correct* since you can submit your request via the website and track its progress through completion.

Visit middletownnj.org and click on the *Connect & Correct* button. This link will direct you to a page of categories you can choose from to report your concern.

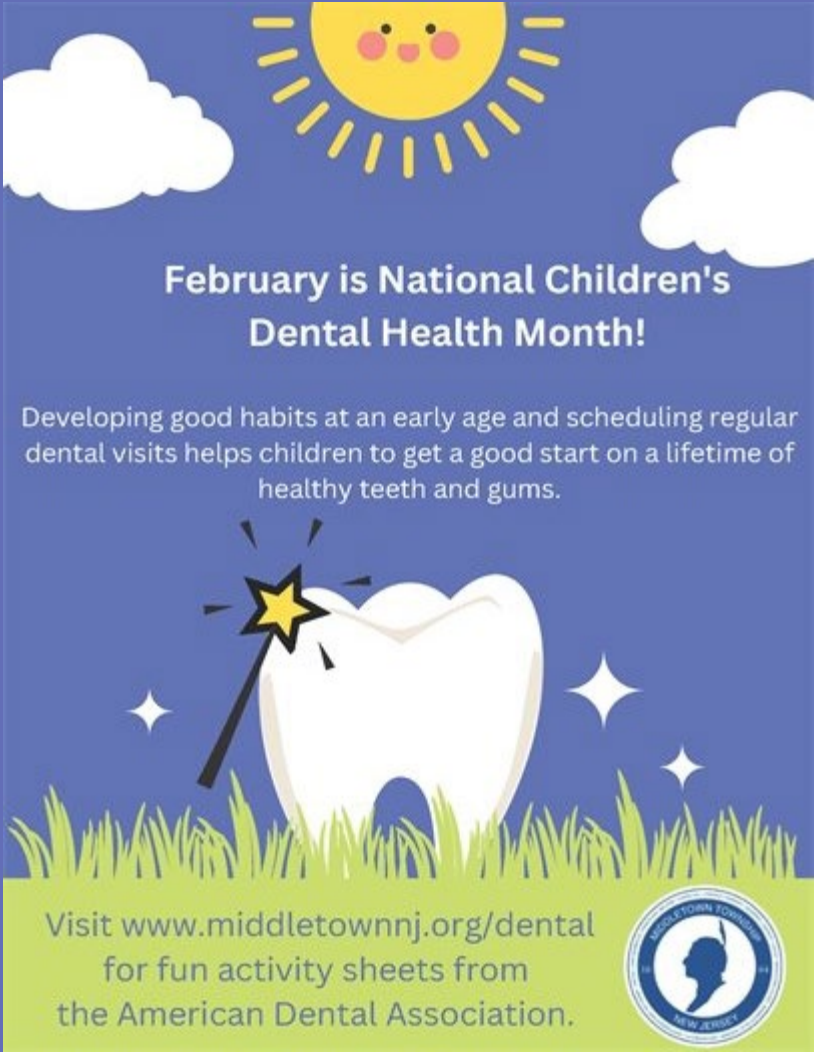
Simply choose the relevant category from the list such as lost pet, pothole, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc. and add a brief description of the issue. You will be able to enter an address or pinpoint the location of the issue on the map. You will also have the option to attach a photo if you would like, and then you can click to submit the report.

You will then be able to track the status of the issue through updates on the platform or via email notifications.

The Township will soon be launching the *Connect & Correct* app which should make it even easier to report your concerns on-the-go as well as streamline

communications regarding any concerns you may have.

Middletown Health Department Encourages You to Celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month!



February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children to get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Visit www.middletownnj.org/dental for fun activity sheets from the American Dental Association.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.

Sign Up for Middletown Parks & Recreation's Spring Break Skateboarding Lessons



Shred with Middletown Parks & Recreation over spring break! Learn how to skateboard or expand your shredding skills with Coach Dave at Kunkel Park Skatepark in Leonardo.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**Buy Tickets for MAC's Art of Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser
Happening Sunday, 2/16 from 12-2 PM**



Get your tickets now for the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) Art of Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser happening this weekend! You can sample chilis from amateur chefs and five delicious restaurants, as well as vote for the People's Choice Award - all for a total of \$15!

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

**Attend MTPL's Author Visit with Xena S. Rivera on
Tuesday, 2/18 at 7 PM**



Join the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) as author Xena S. Rivera talks about her debut novel, *Smell the F*cking Roses*. This book is a heart-wrenching tale of resilience in the face of violence from those you love the most, bringing to light the severe trauma of domestic abuse. The event will take place in the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road). Registration is recommended.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**MTPL Offering Free Health Screenings from 1:30-3:30 PM
and Heart Healthy Eating Program at 3:30 PM on
Wednesday, 2/19**

A promotional poster for a heart health event. The top half has a dark green background with the title 'HEART HEALTHY EATING' in large white letters, followed by 'WITH HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH' in smaller white letters. Below this, it says 'Learn about Mediterranean and DASH diets to improve overall heart health.' in a script font. The date and time 'Wednesday February 19 at 3:30 pm' and location 'Community Room' are in orange. The bottom half is white and features 'BEFORE THE HEALTH TALK: FREE SCREENINGS!' in bold. It lists 'Blood sugar', 'Cholesterol', 'Blood Pressure', 'Stroke', and 'BMI' with corresponding icons. A time slot '1:30PM-3:30PM' is indicated with a horizontal line. At the bottom, it says 'Registration recommended at mtpl.org' and includes the MTPL logo. Various food items like oranges, grapes, a bowl of fruit, a salad, and a loaf of bread are illustrated around the text.

HEART HEALTHY EATING

WITH HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH

Learn about Mediterranean and DASH diets to improve overall heart health.

Wednesday February 19 at 3:30 pm
Community Room

**BEFORE THE HEALTH TALK:
FREE SCREENINGS!**

Blood sugar
Cholesterol
Blood Pressure
Stroke
BMI

1:30PM-3:30PM

Registration recommended at mtpl.org

The Hackensack Meridian Health team will lead a program about Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) and Mediterranean diets and how they improve overall heart health. The program will take place in the MTPL's Community Room on Wednesday, February 19th at 3:30 PM. Before the program, free health screenings will be offered for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, stroke risk assessment, and body mass index. Registration is recommended for both programs, but not required.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the screenings and click [HERE](#) to register for them. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the program and to register for it.

TRAFFIC SAFETY & DETOURS MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP

- Church Street in Belford (near Saint Mary School) between Leonardville Road and Drift Road is currently closed to replace Bridge MT-10. It will be closed 24/7 to vehicular traffic through October, but pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the course of the project.
- As of Monday, January 13th, Broadway is closed between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) due to construction of the final phase of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Port Monmouth Flood Control Project. Broadway will be closed for approximately 2 years. Detours were posted. Port Monmouth Road between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) reopened on Monday, January 13th, providing an alternate detour route for the Broadway closure.

RES OURCES

Prepare Your Home for Winter Storms with Flood Insurance and Precautionary Steps



Middletown Floodplain Management encourages residents to purchase flood insurance and winterize their homes by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Remember to clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or neighboring structure during or following a storm. Keep pathways and driveways clear between storms to avoid buildup of snow piles and icing. Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY POLICIES IN MIDDLETOWN

Middletown Township has an ordinance that requires owners of a business or vacant and abandoned property to maintain liability insurance for negligent acts and omissions.

The ordinance holds property owners responsible for maintaining and securing the property since vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties can cause a cycle of neighborhood deterioration. The ordinance penalizes owners whose property remains vacant year after year.


HOW TO REGISTER OR REPORT VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY

Please visit middletownnj.org/abandonedproperty to either register your vacant/abandoned property or report a vacant/abandoned property.

You can also contact Lisa Vena from the Planning & Community Development Department at 732-615-2000 ext. 2283 or lvena@middletownnj.org if you have any additional questions.



**Apply Now for Township's Free Tutoring Program for
Income-Eligible Households**



MIDDLETOWN, NJ

ngsp

NEXT GENERATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Middletown Township is offering free tutoring services to 3rd through 8th grade students from income-eligible households who have fallen behind academically due to the pandemic. Tutoring takes place on Saturdays from October 12th through April 5th in the Training Room at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). The program runs from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Visit middletownnj.org/ngsp to see if your household qualifies and middletownnj.org/apply to complete the application.

Middletown Township is offering free tutoring services through the Next Generation Support Program to students from income-eligible households who have fallen behind academically due to the pandemic. The program has begun, but the Township is still accepting applications.

Visit middletownnj.org/ngsp for more information and to apply.




**Know Someone with a Disability?
Make Sure They Register with NJ
Register Ready!**


Middletown's Office of Emergency Management encourages residents with disabilities to register with NJ Register Ready. This free program is designed to assist first responders and emergency planners in identifying community members who may need assistance evacuating in advance of an emergency.

For more information about the program and the three ways you can register, visit middletownnj.org/oem.


Click [HERE](#) to access hi-res photos from this e-newsletter.




@Middletown NJ Town Hall



@middletownnj




@middletown.township





@Middletown Township NJ

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